

City of St. Albans.



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1944.

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ST. ALBANS:

PRINTED BY H. A. RICHARDSON, LTD., 5 HIGH STREET.

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## Public Health Department.

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Dr. R. R. K. PATON, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.,  
Medical Officer of Health.  
Assistant School Medical Officer.  
Medical Superintendent, Sisters' Hospital.

R. E. C. GODDARD, F.S.I.A.,  
Chief Sanitary Inspector.  
Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

C. A. BAILEY, M.S.I.A., M.R.SAN.I.,  
Sanitary Inspector.  
Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

C. W. McHUGO, F.I.C.,  
Public Analyst (part-time).

MISS J. N. HUNT (joined H.M. Forces, June, 1943).

MRS. J. E. CLEAR.

To the Mayor and Corporation of the  
City of St. Albans.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

We have the honour to present to you our Annual  
Report for the year 1944.

General Statistics.

- Area (acres), 5,129.
- Population (1931 Census), 28,625.
- Population (estimated), 40,990.
- Rateable Value, £396,009.
- Sum represented by penny Rate, £1,622.

Vital Statistics.

	Birth Rate per 1000 Population	Death Rate per 1000 Population	Deaths under 1 Year per 1000 Births
England and Wales ... ..	17·6	11·6	46
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns in- cluding London ... ..	20·3	13·7	52
148 Smaller Towns (1931 Census 25,000 to 50,000) .. ...	20·9	12·4	44
London ... ..	15·0	15·7	61
St. Albans City ... ..	18 1	11·2	42



### Mortality Table.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever ...	...	...	...
Diphtheria ... ..	...	...	...
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	16	2	18
Other forms of Tuberculosis ..	3	2	5
Syphilitic Diseases ... ..	1	...	1
Influenza ... ..	1	2	3
Measles ... ..	...	...	...
Encephalitis lethargica ... ..	...	...	...
Cancer ... ..	40	42	82
Intracranial Vascular lesions ...	17	32	49
Heart Disease ... ..	44	63	107
Other Circulatory Diseases ... ..	4	5	9
Bronchitis ... ..	14	5	19
Pneumonia ... ..	7	10	17
Other Respiratory Diseases ... ..	4	3	7
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ...	6	1	7
Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years) ...	1	1	2
Appendicitis ... ..	1	3	4
Other Digestive Diseases ..	3	6	9
Nephritis ... ..	3	3	6
Puerperal Sepsis, &c. ... ..	...	1	1
Premature Birth ... ..	4	6	10
Congenital Malformation ... ..	6	7	13
Suicide ... ..	...	1	1
Accidents ... ..	4	1	5
Other Violent Causes... ..	8	3	11
Cerebrospinal Fever ... ..	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ... ..	...	2	2
Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	...	...
Diabetes... ..	1	1	2
All other Causes ... ..	28	41	69
All Causes... ..	216	243	459

## Infant Mortality.

Of the 32 deaths of infants under one year 18 were due to Premature Birth and Congenital Defects.

### Notification of Infectious Diseases during the Year.

DISEASES.	Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.
Diphtheria ... ..	3	3
Scarlet Fever ... ..	62	41
Pneumonia ... ..	17	...
Erysipelas ... ..	5	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	2	...
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	13	13
Sonne Dysentery ... ..	24	24
Cerebro Spinal Fever ... ..	1	1
Whooping Cough ... ..	178	...
Measles ... ..	161	...
Jaundice/Hepatitis ... ..	76	...
Pulmonary T.B. ... ..	47	...
Non-Pulmonary T.B. ... ..	23	...
Total ... ..	612	82

## Tuberculosis.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	...	...	4	5	...	...	...	1
10	1	...	2	1	...	...	...	...
15	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
20	1	2	1	...	1	...	...	...
25	2	4	1	...	3	1	...	1
35	5	4	2	1	2	1	...	...
45	11	3	...	...	3	...	...	...
55	5	...	1	...	2	...	1	...
65	7	2	2	1	1	1	...	...
Totals ...	32	15	15	8	12	3	1	2

## **Hospitals, Nursing Arrangements, etc.**

**General Hospital**—St. Albans and Mid Herts, Church Crescent.

**Infectious Diseases**—Sisters' Joint Hospital, Union Lane.

**Public Assistance Institution and Infirmary**—Oster House, Union Lane.

**Emergency Maternity Hospital**—Diocesan House, Verulam Road.

**St. Albans District Nursing Association**—29 Beaconsfield Road.

During 1944, 172 Maternity cases were nursed to which 3,229 visits were paid, and 943 General cases to which 16,346 visits were paid. Visits have also been made regarding 208 Post-Natal and 935 Ante-Natal cases.

### **School Medical Service.**

44 visits were made to schools for routine medical examination and 1,147 children were examined. 160 children were found to have defects and were referred for treatment.

### **Diphtheria Immunisation.**

The number of children immunised against Diphtheria during the year was 696. Of this number 486 were under school age and 210 between the ages of 5 and 15 years.



**Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic**—Wellington Court,  
Bricket Road.

The numbers at the Centre in 1944 were as follows :

*Number on Register*—Expectant mothers, 754.

Children (under 5), 224.

*Number of Attendances*—

Expectant mothers (consultation with doctor) 1,919.

Children (under 5) seen by doctor, 3,257.

Attendances, 8,434.

Average weekly attendance of 82 children.

Number of deaths among these children, 6.

Number of children referred to the Orthopædic  
Clinic, 98.

## **Inspections, Disinfections, etc.**

### **Inspections.**

During 1944, 2,435 inspections were made of premises including dwelling houses, grocery and provision shops, restaurant kitchens and cooked food premises, factories, bakehouses, cowsheds, dairies and milkshops and offensive trade premises. In connection therewith 788 defects were remedied.

### **Disinfection and Disinfestation.**

Disinfection was carried out in connection with 75 cases of notifiable infectious diseases, and 52 in connection with Tuberculosis and Cancer.

Twenty-six complaints of bed-bug infestation were received and disinfestation was carried out, including six premises disinfested with H.C.N.

### **Public Cleansing.**

351 cesspools received attention, and at approximately 120 houses pail closets were emptied twice weekly.

## **Housing.**

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	581
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Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	<i>Nil</i>
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Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the previous sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	424
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*Remedy of defects during the year without*

*Service of Formal Notices :—*

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers ...	...	408
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## **Inspection and Supervision of Food.**

### **Premises.**

Regular inspections were made of food preparing premises, including bakehouses, restaurant kitchens, slaughterhouses and butcher shops, fish shops, grocery and provision shops, dairies, etc. They were found to be in a cleanly condition.

### **Examination of Food and Drugs.**

During 1944, 125 samples were submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis. The samples included sixty-six samples of milk, three each of mustard and gelatine, two each of ground ginger, curry, medicinal paraffin, horseradish cream and eucalyptus oil, and one each of coffee, tomato chutney, haricot beans, pea beans, tomato sauce, "Vesop" soup extract, laxative vegetable tablets, castor oil, Parish's chemical food, menthol and winter-green cream, Friars balsam, boracic acid crystals, Phenacetin tablets, savoury roll, sausage meal, "Savroll," Health meat, meat extract, pork sausages, liver sausage, anchovy sardelles, fish savoury, smoked filleted herrings

in tomato sauce, Swedish Hors D' œuvre, ground cinnamon, tartaric acid, cayenne pepper, coffee extract, "Friquix" savoury food, "Cheritone" Tonic Cup, almond flavouring, almond essence, lemon flavour, ground nutmeg, mixed spice, bi-carbonate of soda, red wine vinegar, pure glycerine, flowers of sulphur, powdered boracic acid, boracic ointment, petroleum jelly and Epsom salts.

Forty-nine samples of milk were obtained during the normal course of delivery by the retailer to the consumer and these were reported as being genuine—the average results of analysis being :—

Ten samples were obtained from milk in course of delivery from producers to retailers, and of these two were deficient in fat to the extent of 8·3% and 11·0% respectively. "Appeal to Cow" samples were obtained from the farms and it was found that the milk supplied was the actual product of the cows.

The Public Analyst also reported that a sample of mustard was deficient in black mustard seed, but as a new Regulation governing the manufacture and sale of mustard and mustard condiments had only been in force for a period of four weeks prior to the purchase of the sample, the attention of the vendor was drawn to the new Regulations and he was requested to withdraw his remaining stocks from sale.

The remaining samples were reported as being genuine.



### **Milk Supply.**

There are eight producers of milk in the City, fifteen dairies and fifteen retailers of milk.

Frequent visits were made to the cowsheds, dairies and milk shops during the year and these were found to be in a cleanly condition.

### **Milk (Special Designations) Regulations.**

Six retailers in the City are licensed to sell "Tuberculin Tested" milk, two to sell "Accredited" milk and three to sell "Pasteurised" milk. In addition, one producer is licensed by the Hertfordshire County Council to produce "Tuberculin Tested" milk and two to produce "Accredited" milk.

Fifty samples of designated milk have been submitted for bacteriological examination, and the following results were obtained :—

Designation	No. of Samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Tuberculin Tested	38	35	3
Accredited ...	7	7	...
Pasteurised ...	5	5	...
	—	—	—
	50	47	3
	—	—	—

### **Water Supplies.**

During the year eleven samples of water were submitted for bacteriological examination. Four of these were routine samples from the Company's main supply, and the Public Analyst reported that the water possessed a high degree of bacteriological purity.



Five samples were obtained from wells in the Park Street area, and of these two were reported as being contaminated and unfit for domestic and drinking purposes, In one instance a piped supply from the Company's main was provided by the Owner to four cottages, but owing to the situation of the cottages served by the other well a piped supply was impossible and the occupants obtain their water from a spring in some adjoining water cress beds

Two samples from water cress beds were submitted for bacteriological examination and the water was reported as being of excellent quality.

Four samples of water from the Corporation's Open Air Swimming Bath were submitted for bacteriological examination and very satisfactory reports were received.

We are,

Your obedient servants,

RICHARD PATON, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*

R. E. C. GODDARD, F.S.I.A.,  
*Chief Sanitary Inspector.*



